

REMARKS UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Formal Matters

Claims 1-64 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

Claims 15-16, 21, 23-39, 48, 51-55 and 61-64 are currently withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-14, 17-20, 22, 40-47, 49-50 and 56-60 were examined. Claims 1-14, 17-20, 22, 40-47, 49-50 and 56-60 were rejected.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and remarks made herein.

No new matter has been added.

The Office Action

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, Second Paragraph

In the Official Action of October 12, 2006, claims 1-14, 17-20, 22, 40-47, 49-50 and 56-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Examiner noted that there was insufficient antecedent basis for “said identified data items” and for “the first c x d representations”. In response thereto, claims 1, 43 and 56 have been amended to change “said identified data items” to –said data items—for which there is literal antecedent basis, and to change “the first c x d representations” to –a first c x d representations--.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-14, 17-20, 22, 40-47, 49-50 and 56-60 under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph as being indefinite, second paragraph, as being indefinite, as being no longer appropriate.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) (Pitkow)

Claims 1, 43 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Pitkow, U.S. Patent No. 7,038,680. The Examiner asserted that Pitkow discloses all features of claims

1, 43 and 56 in the Abstract; column 1, lines 40-67; column 2, lines 1-15; column 7, lines 20-63; column 11, lines 5-67; column 12, lines 1-41; column 18, lines 29-67; column 22, lines 28-67 and column 23, lines 1-21. The Examiner asserted that Pitkow discusses at column 18, how the workspace manipulations work, where a user may select a Venue attribute, which causes the categorical data to be arranged, in this case sorted by total number of publications, in a column, which represents the sorting of the data by rows. The Examiner asserted that the sorting of the data, by total number of publications, inherently creates a pseudo-vector with values of the data items wherein the row of data items is converted to a data vector for comparison with said pseudo-data vector.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's interpretation of column 18. Pitkow expressly discloses that manipulation of the Axial Slider does not affect the layout of the plot or the arrangement or display of data items therein, see column 18, lines 52-54. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Pitkow does not disclose sorting the order of the arrangement of the rows of data in the $n \times m$ matrix based on a comparison of the values of a pseudo-data vector with values of the data items, as recited in claims 1, 43 and 56. The description of the user selecting a Venue attribute, that was referred to by the Examiner, causes categorical data to be plotted in the slider column, which is not part of the matrix of data displayed, see Fig. 5. The sort referred to at lines 62-65 refers to sorting the data in the matrix 163 to create a focus area. This sort is not performed by comparing the data in matrix 163 with the data in the attribute column 178, as the attribute slider does not affect the layout of the plot in 163 as noted above. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Pitkow does not disclose or suggest sorting based on comparison with a pseudo-data vector as claimed.

Columns 22 and 23 of Pitkow refer to reordering data by sorting or other reordering methods such as random permutations, column minimum degree, non-zero count and matrix specific reordering. However, it is respectfully submitted that columns 22 and 23 do not disclose or suggest sorting based on comparison with a pseudo-data vector as claimed.

In view of the above remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 43 and 56 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Pitkow, U.S. Patent No. 7,038,680, as being inappropriate.

It is further respectfully submitted that Pitkow does not disclose or suggest color-coding cells of at least one row of descriptive data, said color-coding representing the binary values of binary data, as recited in claim 7.

It is further respectfully submitted that Pitkow does not disclose or suggest substituting pseudo-data values for the descriptive data values contained in the cells of the selected row of descriptive data, as recited in claim 8.

Still further, it is respectfully submitted that Pitkow does not disclose or suggest that at least one cell of the selected row lacks a descriptive data value, and wherein, upon said substituting pseudo-data values, said at least one cell lacking a descriptive data value is assigned a predefined null value, as recited in claim 9.

It is respectfully submitted that Pitkow does not disclose or suggest converting a selected row of descriptive data to a pseudo-data vector comprising substituting predefined pseudo-data values for the positive and negative descriptive binary data values contained in the cells of the selected row of descriptive data, as recited in claim 10.

It is further respectfully submitted that Pitkow does not disclose or suggest inverting the predefined pseudo-data values that are used to substitute for the descriptive data values, as recited in claim 11.

It is further respectfully submitted that Pitkow does not disclose or suggest similarity sorting the rows of the $n \times m$ matrix, wherein the rows are processed to determine a relative similarity value to the pseudo-data vector, and wherein upon reordering, all rows are repositioned in descending order from row one, based on ranking by the relative similarity values, and wherein d rows of the reordered $m \times n$ matrix are then displayed, as recited in claim 12.

It is further respectfully submitted that Pitkow does not disclose or suggest that a relative similarity value is determined by calculating a distance value between the pseudo-data vector and a vector generated from a row to be assigned the similarity value, wherein values corresponding to each cell of a pseudo-data row from which the pseudo-data vector was generated are compared with the respective cell values from the row that the vector was generated from, as recited in claim 13.

It is respectfully submitted that Pitkow does not disclose or suggest generating said pseudo-data vector from arbitrary data values, as recited in claim 16.

It is further respectfully submitted that Pitkow does not disclose or suggest generating said pseudo-data vector from values inputted by a user, as recited in claim 17.

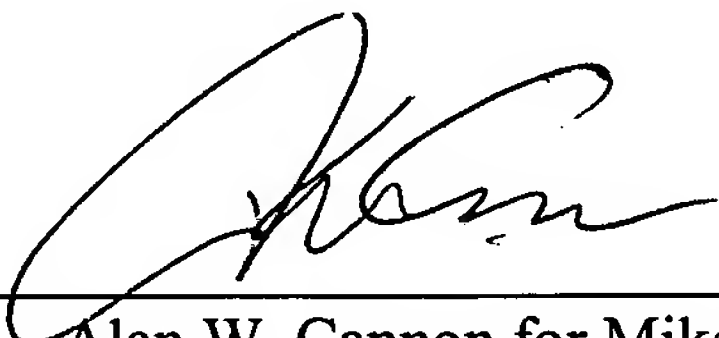
Conclusion

Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1078, order number 10031032-1.

Respectfully submitted,

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